E. 383.
1. 11

The Anabaptists late Protestation.

Or, their

RESOLVTION

To depart the City of

LONDON.

Wherein is set forth,

The full proceedings of a great number of Anabaptists, at a late Conventicle neere Old-street.

Together, with their severall Debates, and Consultations at the said Meeting, concerning the City of London, and the Kingdome of ENGLAND.

April 2d.

Printed in the happy Yeare,
When Sectaries durst not appear. 1647

RESOLVED

LONDON

The Anabaptists last Good-night.

BEING A

RELATION

OF

The proceedings of divers Anabaptists at their late Meeting neer Old-street, *March* 18. 1647.

UPon the 28. day of the last Moneth, there were assembled together neere Old-street, (at a zealous Conventicle) divers persons, of severall degrees and functions, for the laying open their sad grievance, and heavie

heavie oppressions (as they tearm them) occasioned by the late good Votes of the honourable Houses of Parliament, for the putting downe, and abolishing of all Sects and Sectaries, within the Realm of *England*, &c.

And after some houres spent in disputation, they generally resolved to persist on, and adhere to the Rules of their owne reformed Churches, protesting and (ingeniously professing) not to revolt in the least from their Opinions which they were now grounded in; saying, that if Liberty of Conscience would not be allowed of within this Kingdome, they would become Strangers to Forreign Princes; and take their leave of this their native Soyle, But notwithstanding the late Ordinance of Parliament, they still proceed on in their Meetings and Conventicles, using their own Form of Worship, contrary to the Discipline of the Church of England.

But (indeed) they are up-held by many strong Agents, and animated and incouraged on by those who have broached most intollerable thins of late yeares against the

high and honourable Court of Parliament; the grand and chiefe Ring-leaders being now in custody, for endeavouring to sow the Seed of Discord within the Bowels of this Kingdome, both by their severall Writings, and printed Papers, which hath enflamed the hearts of many thousands within this Kingdome: therefore, I may say, *A lame Hand, is better then a lewd Pen*: Therefore to shew much courage in a bad matter, is rather a token of a desperate folly, then any badg of a magnanimous mind. For, is it not apparent, to all true Christians, that this kind of people hath for these two or three yeares practised and endeavoured to raise a division, and to stirre up strife and envie in the hearts of the people, against the most high and supreame Councell of this Kingdome.

Therefore, what a wofull course hath this people ran into, not only through their own lewd practice, but also their infecting of others; so that even the sinnes of thousands they must give an account for.

But

But it is apparent, that since the creeping in of so many Sects within the Church of England, many sad disasters have arose therby; for where there is tolleration of too many sorts of Opinions, there ariseth nothing but strife and contention for superiority, and every one that hath gained a little experience in the Scriptures, takes upon him the great Office of a Minister, and administisters the Word; by which meanes, too many poor soules are ensnared and deluded: therefore, beleeve not every one that taketh upon him to be a Preacher, but try the Preachers, whether they are of God, search the Scriptures dayly, and see whether those things are so, that such preachers say, prove all things, and receive that which is good, 1 John. 4. 1.

Christ himself saith, that if the blind doth lead the blind, both shal fall into the ditch, Matth. 15. 14.

Nay further, the Lord himself saith, the Leaders of this people, that teacheth them Errours and false Doctrines shal cause them to erre, and they that are led of them are destroyed, Esa 9. 14, 15.

And

And verſ. 16, Therefore ſhall the Lord have no pleaſure in their young men, neither have pitty of their fatherleſſe and widowes; for they are altogether Hypocrites, and wicked, and all their mouthes ſpeake follie: After all this, is not the Lords wrath ceaſed, but yet his hand is ſtretched out ſtill.

Thus may we ſee, and plainly diſcerne the wonderfull and horrible things which hath been done in this Land, by the wicked Seducers of our times, by their falſe and erroneous Doctrines, and their changing and altering of the ſacred Scriptures.

Oh the ſad things which are now broched: How is the Church of England defiled, She is become black and beſpotted; nay her beauty which formerly ſhined throughout all Europe, is now eclipſed, becauſe of the too many diverſity of Opinions, which are crept within her very bowels.

But now the beauty of our Church beginneth (once again) to ſhine in its full luſtre, the Curtain is drawn, the Clouds are diſſolving, and all Sects and Schiſmes now vanquiſhing.

So

So that now it is hoped, the Church wil enjoy her former purity, and that by the vanquishing of these Sects and Heresies, she will become undefiled, and without spot or blemish, and appear in the full beauty of al her Members.

God grant that all such wicked Seducers of the people may become new Christians, and reformed; and if not, God give the people grace to know them, to shun them, and to fly from them.

FINIS.

12

THE PETITION

Of the OFFICERS and Souldiers in the Army, under the Command of His EXCELLENCY

Sr. Thomas Fairfax,

VVith the ſeverall Votes of the *Councell Of War* at *Saffron-Walden*, concerning the Armies going into *IRELAND*:

With the names of every Officer then preſent.

Together with

A Letter from His Excellency, to the Houſe of Commons, concerning the ſaid Petition.

LONDON,
Printed for *Robert White*, April 2. 1647.